

Take-Home Recycling Kit

Suggestion for Teachers: You might want to find out what materials are collected for recycling in your community before beginning this activity.



Objective

To teach students the value of recycling and encourage them to discuss recycling with their families.



Activity Description

Students will assemble a take-home recycling kit.



Materials Needed

- Recycling Facts handout for each member of the class
- Old magazines and newspapers
- Used cardboard
- Construction paper
- Markers and/or paint
- Glue
- Scissors
- Any other arts and crafts supplies available



Key Vocabulary Words

Recycling
Processing



Duration

2 hours



Skills Used

Communication
Motor skills



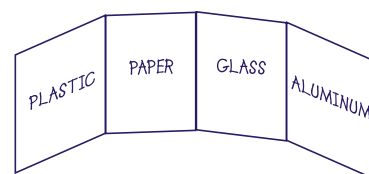
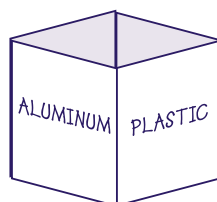
Activity

Step 1: Explain how recycling works and the important role we all can play by recycling items instead of throwing them away. (Refer to the Teacher Fact Sheet titled *Recycling* on pg. 73 for more information.) Review the information on the following *Recycling Facts* handouts with the students, pointing out the economic and environmental benefits of recycling.

Step 2: Have each student cut the old cardboard boxes into four 8 ½- by 11-inch pieces and glue different colored sheets of construction paper to each side of the cardboard. Connect each piece of cardboard with tape to

form a placard that can stand on a table. Instruct the students to label each cardboard piece with one of the following recyclables: aluminum, glass, plastic, and paper (see examples below).

Step 3: Instruct the class to cut out or draw the appropriate recyclable for each cardboard placard using the magazines, newspapers,



language
arts



art



Journal Activity

Ask students to interview their family members about recycling practices and views on recycling. Ask students to write a short article on their families' current views and how their recycling kit changed those views or practices.

markers, and paints. Ask students to write information about recycling on each placard. Optional recycling facts are included on the attached handout and might assist students in this task.

Step 4: When the students are finished decorating their placards, ask them to take them home and affix them where their family keeps its recyclables or its trash to encourage families that don't already recycle to start. Ask students to share the information they learned about recycling with their parents. Explain how the placards serve as friendly reminders of the importance and benefits of recycling.



Assessment

1. Ask students to list the ways recycling helps the environment and why these benefits are important.
2. Ask students what role each of us can play in recycling.



Enrichment

1. If your community recycles, but the majority of the class' families do not recycle at home, have the students practice a "recycling pitch" to their parents using their placards and other facts about the benefits of recycling. Also, students could develop a commercial using their placards and draw a story board of it or create a skit that is then videotaped.
2. Make signs for the classroom or school recycling bin. Ask students to put cans, bottles, or other items from their lunches in the recycling bins in the classroom or school. When the bins are full, take them to a collection facility and use the money to buy treats for the class.
3. Organize a tour of a recyclables processing facility or a manufacturing plant that uses recycled materials.

Recycling Facts



Paper

- A used newspaper can be recycled and remanufactured into a new newspaper in less than 4 weeks.



- Americans recycled 60,000 tons of phone books in 1995.
- By recycling or reusing 1 ton of paper, we save 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 380 gallons of oil, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, and enough energy to heat an average home for 6 months.

- Americans recycled 47 million tons of paper in 1999.

Plastic

- Using only five recycled plastic soda bottles, manufacturers can make one extra-large T-shirt.
- Milk jugs can be made into all different types of plastic objects, from park benches to boardwalks.
- Recycled plastic soda bottles can be made into "fleece" sweaters, long underwear, stuffing for sleeping bags, and other items.



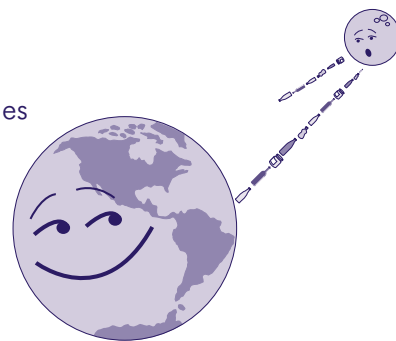
Aluminum

- Recycling aluminum cans saves 95 percent of the energy required to make aluminum cans from scratch.
- Since 1972, Americans have earned \$10 billion from recycling aluminum cans.
- Every minute, an average of 127,093 aluminum beverage cans are recycled in the United States.
- The amount of aluminum recycled in 1995 could have built 14 aircraft carriers



Glass

- If all the glass bottles and jars recycled were laid end-to-end, they would reach the moon and make it more than halfway back to Earth.
- Every day, Americans recycle 37 percent of all glass jars and bottles.
- Americans throw away enough glass bottles and jars every 2 weeks to fill both of the World Trade Center's 1,350-foot towers.
- Every ton of new glass produced results in 27.8 pounds of air pollution, but recycling glass reduces that pollution by 14 to 20 percent.



Sources: National Recycling Coalition; EPA; Weyerhaeuser Company, 1999; American Forest and Paper Association; American Plastics Council, 1994; Coca-Cola Co., 1995; Glass Packaging Institute, 2000; Can Manufacturers Institute, 2000; EPA, 1997.